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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,844	08/02/2001	Hiroshi Nitta	121.1018/HEW	5683

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EXAMINER

VAN BRAMER, JOHN W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3622

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/919,844	Applicant(s) NITTA ET AL.	
	Examiner John Van Bramer	Art Unit 3622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 – 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Valentino (U.S. Patent Number: 4,648,037).

Claim 1: Valentino discloses an information inquiry apparatus that receives an information inquiry from a terminal connected through a communication pathway, comprising:

- a. An inquiry information file that registers the inquiry information for each employee of a staff of an organization (Col 5, lines 12 – 22; and Col 6, lines 49 – 68)
- b. An advertisement information file that registers advertising information, possibly including an advertisement link that allows access to an additional advertisement information. (The employee benefits disclosed in Valentino include such items as retirement plans, health insurance plans, and flexible benefit plans such as a cafeteria plan. When an employee inquires as to the options available within such plans they are accessing a file that describes the various options from which an employee can choose. Therefore, they are

accessing an information file that advertises the various options available to the employee) (Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21)

- c. An inquiry image display generator that generates display data from the inquiry information file and the advertisement information file so that a display image of the display data contains the inquiry information for a staff of an organization and the advertising information, possibly including the advertisement link that allows access to the additional advertisement information. (Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21)
- d. An inquiry information transmitter that receives the information inquiry from the terminal and transmits the inquiry image. (Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21)

Claim 2: Valentino discloses the information inquiry apparatus in claim 1, further comprising: a confirmation information file that stores confirmation information when the employee submits the information inquiry from the terminal and receives the display image. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64 and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 3: Valentino discloses the information inquiry apparatus in claim 2, wherein the confirmation information is sent to the organization. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64 and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 4: Valentino discloses the information inquiry apparatus in claim 1, further

comprising a purchase information file that stores purchase information when the employee utilizes the advertising information. (The purchase information file is the file containing the benefits and allocation amounts that the employee has elected within the benefit package. Such a file would contain information detailing the mutual funds selected by an employee participating in a defined contribution retirement plan or the options purchased in the cafeteria plan.) (Col 5, lines 49 – 64 and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 5: Valentino discloses the information inquiry apparatus in claim 4, wherein the purchase information is sent to an advertisement source. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64 and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 6: Valentino discloses the information inquiry apparatus in claim 1, wherein the advertising information includes information tailored to at least one of an employee income level, an employee organizational unit and an employee information input. (Col 14, lines 45 – 65)

Claim 7: Valentino discloses an employee information communication method, comprising:

- a. Electronically storing employee information including at least one of employee name, employee company, employee number and employee password. (Col 5, lines 12 – 22; and Col 13, lines 52 – 67)

- b. Electronically storing advertising information from a first source. (Col 14, lines 2 – 18)
- c. Electronically storing employee detailed wage information including at least one of employee number, employee company, employee name, payment amounts, deduction amounts and date of payment from a second source. (Col 13, lines 52 – 67)
- d. Receiving an inquiry from an employee. (Col 14, lines 19 – 33)
- e. Generating a detailed wage image that includes advertising information, employee information and employee detailed wage information. (Col 14, lines 19 – 33)

Claim 8: Valentino discloses the employee information communication method in claim 7, further comprising electronically storing confirmation information when the employee submits the inquiry and receives the detailed wage image. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64; and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 9: Valentino discloses the employee information communication method in claim 8, further comprising sending the confirmation information to the second source. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64; and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 10: Valentino discloses the employee information communication method in claim 7, further comprising electronically storing purchase information when an

Art Unit: 3622

employee utilizes the advertising information. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64; and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 11: Valentino discloses the employee information communication method in claim 10, further comprising sending the purchase information to the first source. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64; and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 12: Valentino discloses the employee information communication method in claim 7, wherein the advertising information includes information tailored to at least one of an employee income level, an employee organizational unit and an employee information input. (Col 14, lines 45 – 65)

Claim 13: Valentino discloses an employee information communication system, comprising:

- a. A first electronic data storage device that stores employee information including at least one of employee name, employee company, employee number and employee password. (Col 4, line 61 through Col 5, line 11; Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21; and Col 13, lines 52 – 67)
- b. A second electronic data storage device that stores advertising information from a first source. (Col 4, line 61 through Col 5, line 11; Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21; and Col 13, lines 52 – 67)

- c. A third electronic data storage device that stores employee detailed wage information including at least one of employee number, employee company, employee name, payment amounts, deduction amounts and date of payment from a second source. (Col 4, line 61 through Col 5, line 11; Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21; and Col 13, lines 52 – 67)
- d. An image generator that receives an inquiry from an employee and generates a detailed wage image that includes advertising information, employee information and employee detailed wage information. (Col 4, line 61 through Col 5, line 11; Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21; and Col 13, lines 52 – 67)

Claim 14: Valentino discloses the employee information system in claim 13, further comprising a fourth electronic data storage device that stores confirmation information when the employee submits the inquiry and receives the detailed wage image. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64: and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 15: Valentino discloses the employee information system in claim 14, wherein the confirmation information is sent to the second source. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64: and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 16: Valentino discloses the employee information system in claim 13, further comprising a fourth electronic data storage device that stores purchase information

when an employee utilizes the advertising information. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64: and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 17: Valentino discloses the employee information system in claim 16, wherein the purchase information is sent to the first source. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64: and Col 14, lines 34 – 44)

Claim 18: Valentino discloses the employee information apparatus in claim 13, wherein the advertising information includes information tailored to at least one of an employee income level, an employee organizational unit and an employee information input. (Col 14, lines 45 – 65)

Claim 19: Valentino discloses a wage information management apparatus, comprising:

- a. A detailed wage data structure that stores details of an employee's wage. (Col 5, line 66 through Col 6, line 10)
- b. A detailed wage inquiry authenticator that authenticates a wage inquiry based on an authentication code in the wage inquiry. (Col 6, lines 11 – 41)
- c. A communicator that, when the detailed wage authenticator authenticates the wage inquiry, sends the detailed wage data to a source of the wage inquiry. (Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21)

Art Unit: 3622

- d. A deduction information collector that accepts a deduction information from the source of the wage inquiry. (Col 14, lines 19 – 44)
- e. A deduction information recorder that records the deduction information sent from the source of the wage inquiry. (Col 14, lines 19 – 44)

Claim 20: Valentino discloses the wage information management apparatus in claim 19, further comprising a confirmation data structure that stores confirmation information when the source submits the wage inquiry and the communicator sends the detailed wage data. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64 and Col 14, lines 19 – 44)

Claim 21: Valentino discloses the wage information management apparatus in claim 19, wherein the confirmation information is sent to a second source. (Col 5, lines 49 – 64 and Col 14, lines 19 – 44)

Claim 22: Valentino discloses an employee information communication apparatus, comprising:

- a. A first electronic data structure that stores employee information including at least one of employee name, employee company, employee number and employee password. (Col 4, line 61 through Col 5, line 11; Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21; and Col 13, lines 52 – 67)

- b. A second electronic data structure that stores advertising information from a first source. (Col 4, line 61 through Col 5, line 11; Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21; and Col 13, lines 52 – 67)
- c. A third electronic data structure that stores employee detailed wage information including at least one of employee number, employee company, employee name, payment amounts, deduction amounts and date of payment from a second source. (Col 4, line 61 through Col 5, line 11; Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21; and Col 13, lines 52 – 67)
- d. An image generator that receives an inquiry from an employee and generates a detailed wage image that includes advertising information, employee information and employee detailed wage information. (Col 4, line 61 through Col 5, line 11; Col 6, line 49 through Col 7, line 21; and Col 13, lines 52 – 67)

Conclusion

- 3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

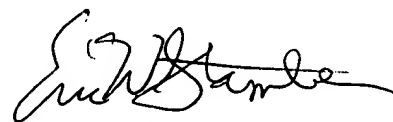
Saigh et al. (U.S. Patent Number: 5,734,823) discloses an information delivery system that incorporates the ability to deliver sensitive information to employees of a corporation, such as employee benefits, as well as providing promotional delivery and purchasing functionality.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Van Bramer whose telephone number is (571) 272-8198. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am - 5pm Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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